

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 08273 020637Z

70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01

DHA-02 MCT-01 /081 W

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R 011204Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 769

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 8273

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 1 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT ADF TO ENTER SOUTH
LEBANON

1. MEDIA REPORTED CONTINGENT OF ADF WILL ENTER SOUTH
LEBANON. PRESS CITED BEIRUT RADIO BROADCAST REAFFIRMING
THERE NO CAUSE FOR ALARM OVER THIS STEP AS LONG AS ALL
PARTIES REFRAIN FROM DISRUPTIVE ACTIONS. PRESS BANNERED:
"SUCCESSIVE STEPS FOR RESTORATION OF FULLY NORMAL LIFE
TO LEBANON. PRES. SARKIS CENTERS HIS CONTACTS UPON THREE
MAIN ISSUES -- SITUATION IN SOUTH, COLLECTION OF HEAVY
WEAPONS AND FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT. MESSAGE TO
SOLDIERS OF SYRIA AS THEY PROVIDE JOY AND HOPE TO LEBANESE
PEOPLE."

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 08273 020637Z

2. MEDIA REPORTED PRES. ASAD PREVIOUS NIGHT RECEIVED LEBANESE CONFRONTATION FRONT DELEGATION CONSISTING OF DEPUTY TALAL MURIBI, RASHID AL-UQADDAM AND SUHAYL HAMADAH. ASAD REVIEWED WITH THEM LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OF SITUATION IN LEBANON. MURIBI LATER DELIVERED STATEMENT TO SANA PRAISING RESTORATION OF SECURITY BY ADF.

3. MEDIA NOTED ASAD ALSO RECEIVED LEBANESE NASSERITE LEADER KAMAL SHATILA TO DISCUSS LEBANESE EVENTS.

4. PRESS REFERRED TO CLAIMS BY INFORMED SOURCES IN BEIRUT THAT 100,000 REFUGEES HAVE RETURNED TO LEBANON SINCE IMPOSITION OF SECURITY BY ADF.

5. MEDIA REPORTED RETURN TO DAMASCUS PREVIOUS DAY OF FONMIN KHADDAM FOLLOWING TOUR OF GULF STATES. PRESS CITED ARAB MEDIA DESCRIPTION OF TRIP AS SUPPLEMENT TO SYRIAN SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING LEBANESE PEACE.

6. AL-THAWRAH COLUMNIST OPINED THAT RETURN OF PEACE TO LEBANON HAS ELIMINATED RIFT WITHIN ARAB RANKS.
MURPHY

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NNN

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